

Message Text

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65-60
ORIGIN AID-32

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66619
DRAFTED BY AFR:CWR/SDU: JKELLY
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DIST 2D ACTION AFR INFO TAAG AGRIC CHRON 1 2 32P
----- 114297
O 102154Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL IMMEDIATE

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AFDROUGHT

FOLLOWING REPEAT BAMAKO 786 ACTION STATE ROME ABIDJAN FEB 27:

QUOTE

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AIDAC

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJ: FUMIGATION CAMPAIGN

REF.: STATE 42683

1. JOHN CONWAY, EXPERT ON STORAGE AND FUMIGATION EMPLOYED BY OSRO
ARRIVED IN BAMAKO FEBRUARY 18, 1975. HIS FIRST EVALUATION
OF CEREAL STOCK IS THAT 3,000 TONS OF CEREALS IN
SIKASSO CITY UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND THIRD
OF STOCKS IN BAMAKO ALSO DETERIORATED TO SUCH EXTENT THAT
IT SHOULD BE CONDEMNED. THIS PROBABLY TRUE OF STOCKS
THROUGHOUT MALI. CONWAY RECOMMENDS THAT FUMIGATION
CAMPAIGN START IMMEDIATELY TO STOP DEGRADATION OF STOCK
BARELY FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. OPAM HAS NO MEANS NOR
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ENOUGH TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE TO CONDUCT ANY KIND OF DISINFES-

TATION OPERATION. LOCAL FUMIGATING CONTRACTORS AVAILABLE, BUT EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT SUPERVISION NECESSARY TO INSURE PROPER FUMIGATION. RESTACKING AND HERMETIC ENCLOSURE OF STOCKS NECESSARY FOR PROPER FUMIGATION, FEASIBLE ONLY UNDER SUPERVISION OF AN EXPERT DUE TO INEXPERIENCE OF LOCAL FUMIGATING FIRMS. MORE THAN 70,000 TONS OF CEREALS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OF MALI AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT JUST TO SUPERVISE THE FUMIGATION OF THE WORST INFESTED STOCKS THE EXPERT WILL BE NEEDED FOR AT LEAST SIX WEEKS. IN ADDITION, TO PREPARE PROJECT TO EQUIP AND TRAIN OPAM STAFF TO CONDUCT NECESSARY WORK THROUGHOUT TERRITORY, EXPERT PRESENCE FOR EXTENDED PERIOD NECESSARY. GIVEN SIZE AND VALUE OF STOCKS AND MAGNITUDE OF DAILY LOSSES, IT URGENT EXPERT START FUMIGATION CAMPAIGN ASAP.

2. CONWAY NOW UNDER LOAN TO OSRO FROM GOVERNMENT OF GAMBIA. CDO REQUESTS INTERVENTION AID/W AND AMEMBASSY ROME INFORM OSRO OF IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO EXTENSION HIS TDY TO SUPERVISE FIRST PHASE OF FUMIGATIONS. ALSO REQUEST STEPS BE TAKEN TO MAKE AVAILABLE FURTHER TECHNICAL HELP TO PREPARE PROJECT AND PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR OPAM STAFF.

BEGIN LOU. FYI IN ORDER TO PERMIT OPAM HAVE TIME DEAL WITH FUMIGATION PROBLEMS IN BAMAKO AND CLEAR RECEPTION CENTERS OF ALL OLD STOCKS, CONWAY SUGGESTED THAT IMPORTS BE TEMPORARILY HALTED. IF IN FACT 39,225 MT FOOD GRAIN PER REFTEL HELD UP, WE FEAR THERE WILL BE LATER CONGESTION IN WEST AFRICAN PORTS. REQUEST AID/W AND ABIDJAN COMMENT.

DECON 9/26/75.

MCGUIRE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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